FEEDBACK

Letters Received

Why A Black Flag?

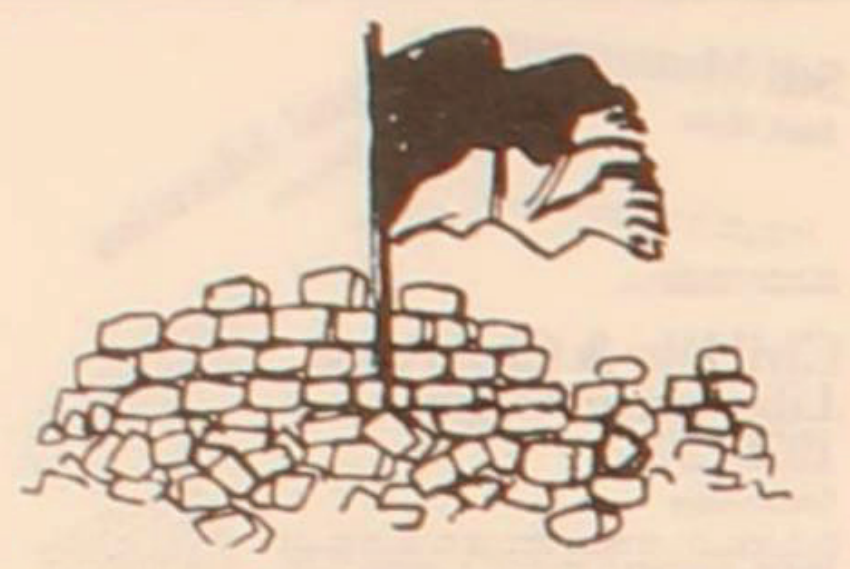
Dear Black Flag,
In issue no. 164 your review of The Great Liberty Riot of 1780 corrects my attribution of the black and red flag which flew over the greatest destruction of prisons in our History to the anarchists. I am grateful for any discussion of the event. My purpose in writing the book was to restore this event to its proper place in our History, so I am delighted that it has been noticed in an Anarchist periodical. Your reviewer referred to the way this turning point, like many others, has been hidden or distorted.

Elsewhere I referred to the symbolic importance of colours: green being the emblem of the Levellers, blue of those seeking Liberty. Could anyone explain the origin of black and red and why they were the colours of that immense flag which flew as the people destroyed Tyranny in the shape of Newgate?

One of those who took part in that epochal act was William Blake. I believe that, like Blake, the Riot of 1780 and Lord George Gordon belong to a non-authoritarian, high-spirited, millenarian, apocalyptic, celebratory tradition in our History. If this is not anarchic what label suits it?
Yours
John Nicholson, c/o Bozo Publications,
BM Bozo, London WC1N 3XX

As we said, it is of minor importance, but it is an anachronism to say that the red-and-black flag flying over the destruction of Brixton prison meant it was done by anarchists, since the flag was first accepted by anarcho-syndicalists some one hundred and fifty years later.

The reason why the flat appeared then is anyone's guess. but it may be that certain colours are taken as symbolic because of what ahppened in the past (e.g. green is a country symbol because of green grass therefore it was adopted by Ireland and also later by single-issue ecologists, but one cannot assume the Ecology Party has links with the IRA!) Perhaps if black was used in the prison riots that is why it was later adopted by anarchists; just as May Day was selected by the working class movement because of its links with a (supposed) glorious past.



More importantly, while the riots were clearly anti-authoritarian, so were the Brixton riots, but one cannot say that (for instance) the Rastas or Black Muslims were anarchists, nor would they say so – however clear and conscious anti-authoritarians many of them were on this issue. You can't be an anarchist without being an anti-authoritarian (that makes you a Liberal): the reverse does not apply. Neither Blake nor Gordon had a practical idea of a free society or how to achieve it – that's why one turned to mysticism and the other to Judaism. One can't blame them for not being so far ahead of their time but we reluctantly have to dissent from our friend's last paragraph.

What is of major importance is his clear understanding of the importance in the destruction of the prisons and its contribution to the development of Anarchism, and its impact upon society.

Belfast Cops Lose Control

Belfast, 5th November 1986.
Dear Black Flag,

While visiting Belfast I went along to a gig with my friends, some of whom were playing, which involved local bands 'Pink Turds In Space', 'Stalag 17' and others.*

It was quite well attended for a Wednesday night and everything was going okay with a good friendly atmosphere. That is, until towards the end of the gig, when some trouble broke out. It was broken up fairly quickly and, all in all, it wasn't that serious. Then a few minutes later the manager (of the pub) threw out a woman, pissed and very violent, and from there things got worse, though we weren't to expect it.

The gig ended shortly afterwards and we came outside the find the RUC (Royal Ulster Constabulary) waiting. Also waiting was the woman who got thrown out and she ran back up the stairs and started to attack another woman who was coming down. This was stopped almost immediately and the situation could've and would've been resolved within a few minutes. Then the RUC moved in. They stormed up the stairs pushing people out and dragged away one punk, who was nowhere near the trouble, towards an armoured car.

We immediately protested his innocence and some started pulling him away. A 'tug-o-war' then started which went on for about fifteen minutes, by which time more RUC had arrived. The cops were losing control of the situation though, and the punk was able to break free, unfortunately only for a few minutes.

The situation then got dramatically worse as the cops decided to regain control with the only way the bastards know how – blatant violence. They went berserk, charging into the crowd with batons swinging. One skinhead got his head split open (10 stitches) and another person got hit on the jaw by a machine-gun butt, with many others being hit about the head and arms. The punk was again kidnapped and dragged into the armoured car (where he was beaten), with possibly another one or two others.

They were taken to an RUC station, which we picketed for about an hour, where they were charged and released after we'd gone home.

Next day a number of people went to a sympathetic solicitor and made a statement and complaint to go to the RUC. All who signed it were warned that they should expect harassment as they (RUC) don't like complaints made against them.

They were warned in particular because the RUC cops involved were of the the District Mobile Support Units (DMSU), equivalent to the SPG and members of whom have been involved in the murder of suspected, and unarmed, republicans (see **Black Flag** *163 for more details).*

This was yet another case of unprovoked punishment dealt out by these paramilitary thugs, similar to those of Orgreave, Wapping, Brixton, Stonehenge etc. etc. . . the list is as long as it is sickening.

REFLECTION: In most other cities because the cops were so outnumbered, the likelihood is that no-one would've been nicked and the cop cars and jeeps trashed. I felt that I had to keep backing off because if I got caught then not only would I have been beaten, but also held and interrogated, because I'm from Scotland (paramilitary groups, loyalist and republican, have strong links with people in Scotland, particularly in Glasgow).

But just glancing around it was easy to see that no-one was willing to go too far, it wasn't just the physical threat, but the psychological hold that they have over us too. On this side of the water, the cops are just as arrogant, corrupt and vicious, but they don't yet have the fear factor in their favour, which is why the youth in many inner cities are still prepared to confront them on the streets.

The possibility of openly armed cops walking the streets in Britain, in the not too distant future, is real. Such moves, or the threat of troops,† by any Government must be resisted in whatever ways possible, the backbone of which should be the general strike.
Inverness Anarchist.

** Although it sounds like a dodgy name, those in the band are in no way sympathetic to any fascist organisation – the exact opposite.*
† The leader of Strathclyde Regional Council (can't remember his name, but he's Labour), threatened to put out the troops if the Fire Brigades went ahead with a 24-hour strike just recently.

Revolutionary Publishers Celebrates Centenial

The Charles H. Kerr Company, the oldest revolutionary publishing house in North America, and probably in the entire world, is currently celebrating its centennial.

Kerr's monthly *International Socialist Review*, edited by the fiery Mary Marcy was one of the most influential revolutionary journal in the US till it was suppressed by the US government in 1918 for its opposition to World War I. The *Review* published many anarchist and Anarcho-Syndicalist writers, including George Barrett, Joe Hill, William C. Owen, Vincent St. John and others.

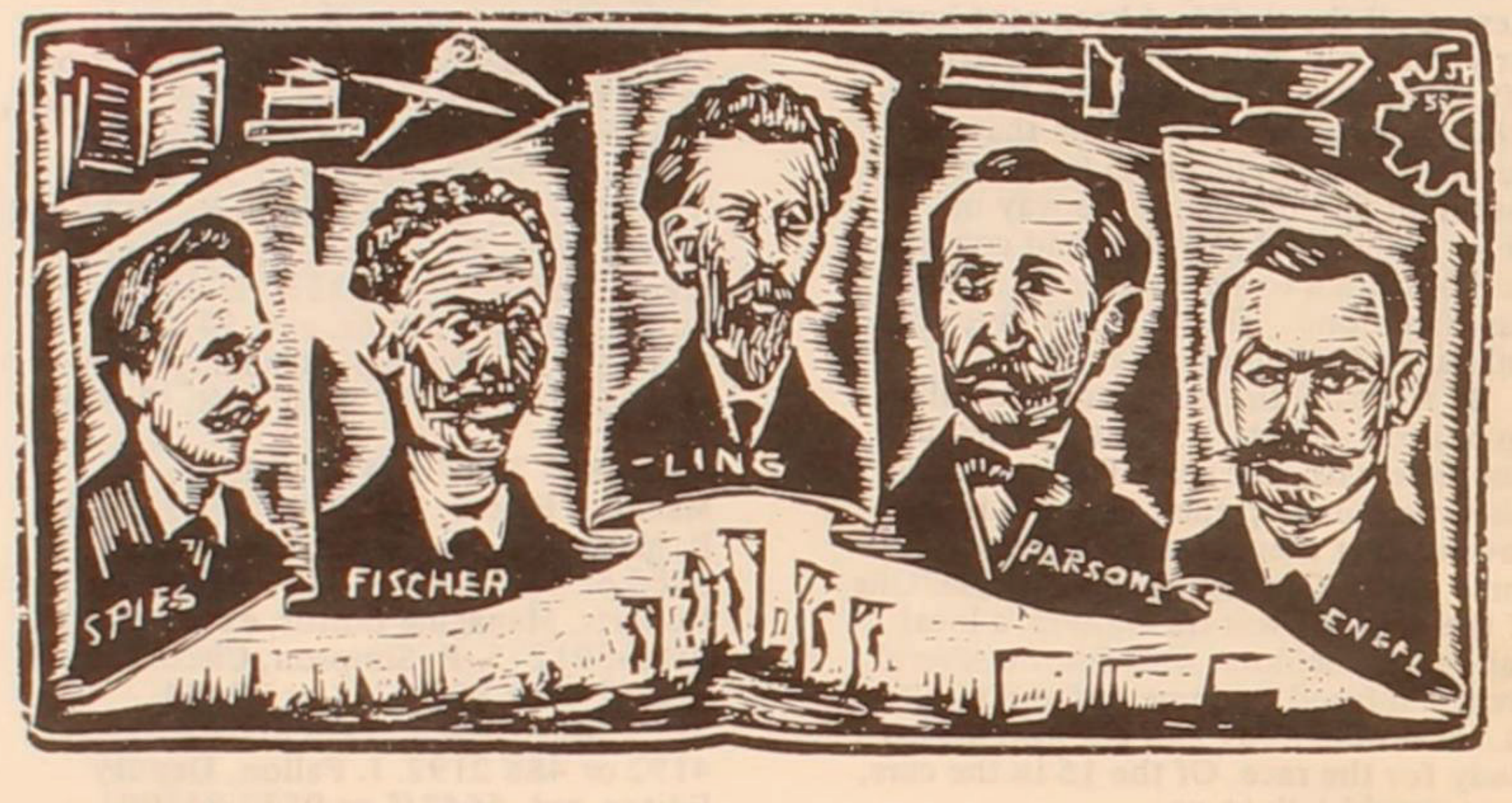


Illustration from 'Haymarket Scrapbook'

In recent years Kerr, a not-for-profit co-operative, has published numerous original works and reprints on the history of anarchim, radical labour and the women's movement, including a series of classics of revolutionary humour.

Kerr has been celebrating its centennial appropriately, by publishing books. Its new list features the profusely illustrated *Haymarket Scrapbook: a Centennial Anthology*, edited by Dave Roedigger and Franklin Rosemont, a massive compilation of new and old material that traces the worldwide impact of the Chicago anarchists of 1886 – not only on social and political life, but also on poetry, cartooning and modern theatre ($15.95 post-paid). Also just published is a new edition of the long-out-of-print classic, Illinois John. P. Altgeld's *Reasons For Pardoning the Haymarket Anarchists* ($4.95 postpaid).

Forthcoming Kerr titles include a new, expanded edition of Joyce Kornbluh's *Rebel Voices: An IWW Anthology*, a volume of selected writings by IWW humourist T-Bone Slim, a collection of poems by anarchist Voltairine de Cleyre and the autobiography of anarcho-syndicalist Augustin Souchy.

For a copy of Kerr's new centennial catalogue, write to:
Charles H. Kerr Publishing Company
1740 West Greenleaf Avenue,
Chicago Il. 60626, USA

WAPPING

MARCH & RALLY

STRIKE ANNIVERSARY
a year of struggle

SATURDAY 24th JANUARY

Assemble: Arundel Street, Temple Tube 4pm
Rally: Wellclose Street E1 6.30 pm

◆National speakers◆Music◆Special guests◆Stalls◆

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TERRY FRENCH
Betteshanger – 5 years jail
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No.166

BLACK FLAG

30p
THE ANARCHIST FORTNIGHTLY
25-1-87

FRENCH RAIL STRIKE

DIRECT ACTION OR SURRENDER

As we go to press sympathetic and parallel strikes in major industries are either continuing or about to erupt, adding further impetus to the four week old rail strike. The main threat however is not yet from the State but from the politically controlled trade union system that is anxious, on the one hand, to assert control over a dominant rank and file and, on the other, to battle for influence in the negotiating stakes.

Recognising that the rail strike is firmly in the hands of independent rank and file strike committees, the CGT (Communist union) stepped in and called for limited sympathetic action in other public sector industries. This was to take the form of a predictable one-day strike. However the strike action continued for more than one day because of the poular support for the rail workers, and stoppages took place in the power industry and on the Paris Metro.

At the same time the CGT ordered their members in the merchant navy – who had been on strike since early December, bringing many ports to a standstill – to return to work. A convenient excuse was provided by the beseiged government which had ordered concessions to be made. The CGT also entered into discussions with Mitterand to see how the rail strike could be ended.

Despite these moves and the vicious attacks by riot police on strikers the momentum of the rail strike continues unabated. As well as the usual picketing and besetting of scabs, traditional sabotage methods have been deployed (e.g. the uncoupling of wagons, the cutting of phone lines, attacks on signal boxes and rail electricity supplies).

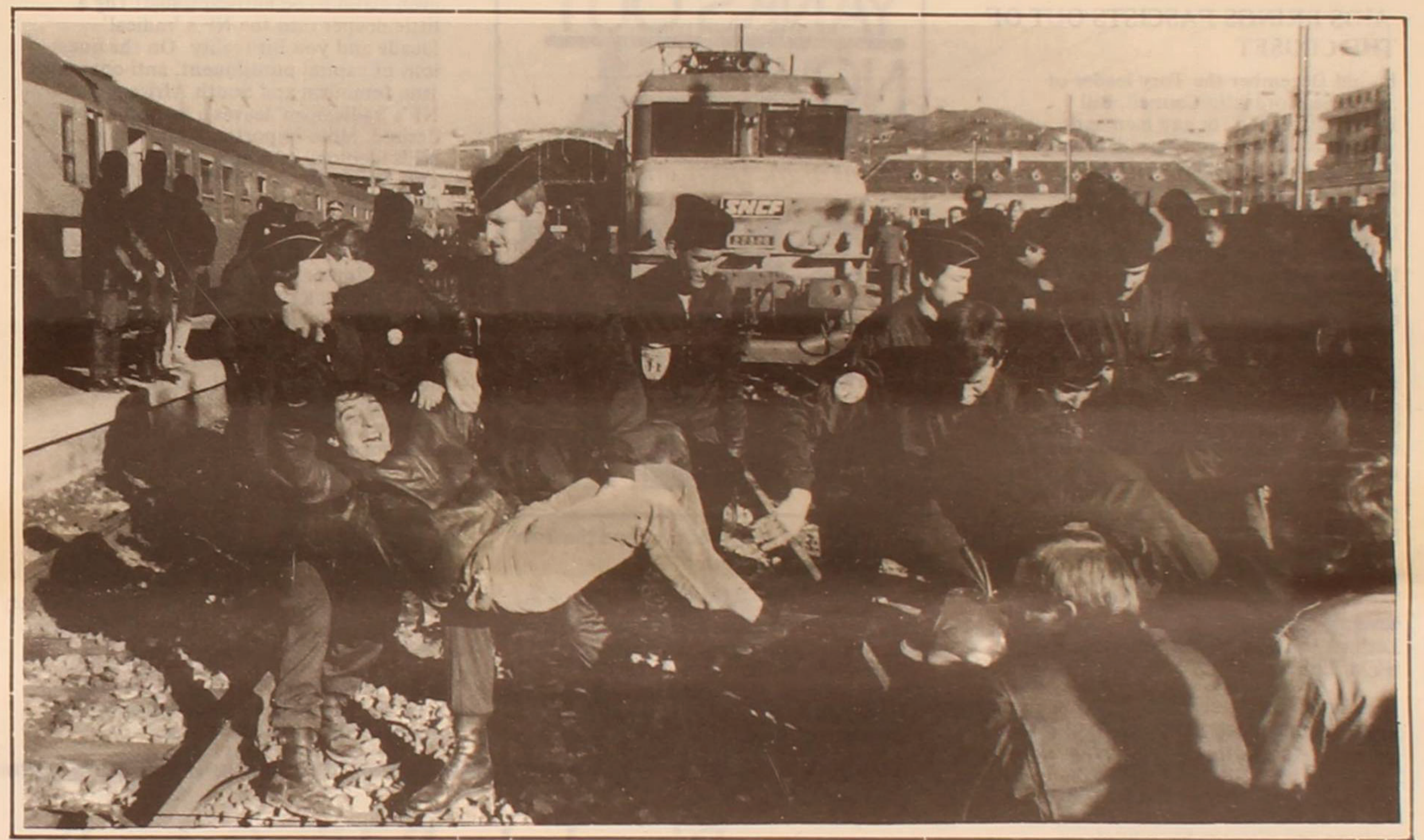
The news that 90,000 workers in arms factories and 40,000 miners are considering coming out too (although the CGT claims to have hijacked both these disputes), bodes well with the strike movement.

However, under the French union system all-out strike action is virtually impossible without the full co-operation of all the main union power blocs or until there is widespread rank and file rebellion against those blocs. With the latter the rail workers have supplied a salutary lesson for workers in other industries. The momentum must not be lost, or destroyed by the intervention of the union blocs anxious to close a deal by negotiation. The CGT, especially, is worried that's its overall power base could be threatened by the example of the rail workers and their setting up of non-hierarchical strike coordinating committees.

The action of the rail workers and the support they have inspired has conjured up a revival of both the spirit and practice of revolutionary syndicalism - effectively threatening the State and the union power blocs alike. Their action is also opening the way towards a possible general strike, the demands of which can only be limited by those who pretend to represent the interests of those who are directly involved.

N.B. We learn that the non-hierarchical revolutionary syndicalist union, the CNTF, has been playing an active part in the strike action and has, as a result, been asked to form branches by the rank and file strikers on the railways. A communique from the CNTF urges physical and financial support for those on strike – and donations should be send to the strike committees or the CNTF direct.

TI



Police remove strikers from the line at Nice Station.

TOWARDS A GENERAL STRIKE ?

At the start of the conflict, the controlling CGT (Communist Trade Union) were not in favour of a strike, as it was judged too unpopular, as winter drew near. A unique and mass movement of railworkers consider union officials as 'technical assistants' rather than controlling forces. Twenty-four hour strikes, initiated by the union officials, which are useless, are over. This is the basis of the SNCF strike, which began first at Paris Nord, the station running trains to the north of France.

The social context has been important. Coming so soon after the students uprising, the strike is being run along similar lines – national co-ordination, general assemblies for decision making, revokable delegates. An important movement such as this can only start from a real and deep dissatisfaction with refusal to be a pawn, and a desire to act on your own behalf, and that of other workers.

Even if the government has withdrawn its educational 'reforms' it refuses to be swayed by the railworkers demands. Saying yes could mean saying yes tomorrow to other protest movements. While sending the CRS (riot police) into the railway stations to Strikers blocking the lines, the government uses the media to try and make the strike seem unpopular.

On the other side, the CGT goes on with its own affairs, doing its best to recouperate the dissatisfaction for its own interests, trying to appear, whenever possible, as if it is the front-line against the government. The media helps its claim, and it is in all of their interest to see the general assemblies forgotten. Rival movements have been created by the CGT, so that noone will understand which is controlled by the workers, and which by the bureaucrats.

Like the students, the strikers will have to deal with the recuperators, if they are to continue using direct action.

Meanwhile, the right wing are doing their best to create groups of 'dissatisfied rail users' to work against the strikers.

The following days will determine the course of events.

Anarchist Condemned To Death see page 6

BLACK FLAG – BLACK CROSS
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For a social system based on mutual aid and voluntary co-operation – against State control and all forms of government and economic oppression. To establish a share in the general prosperity for all – the breaking down of racial, religious, national and sex barriers – and to fight for the life of one world.

HOME NEWS

AIDS BRINGS FASCISTS OUT OF THE CLOSET

In mid December the Tory leader of South Staffordshire Council, Bill Brownhill, called for gay men and women to be shot and gassed, after councillors saw a film on AIDS. A Labour councillor also backed his foaming and ranting about 'queers trading filth'.

On December 21, a large group of lesbians and gay men occupied his front garden, chanting 'Brownhill Brownshirt' and 'Remember Treblinka'.

Police arrived and attacked the picket, arresting 12 people, punching one in the mouth in the process. A magistrate granted the police permission for them to be held on remand for seven days, they received anti-gay fascist abuse from police and screws.

The Public Prosecutor claimed that the picket had 'Spoilt Councillor Brownhill's Christmas'. Oh dear!

There is a meeting to support the 'Wombourne 12' on 29 January, at 7.30pm at Red Rose Centre, 129 Seven Sisters Road, N7. More info from Lesbian and Gay Youth Network, BM GYM, London WC1N 3XX.

SECURITY EXPERT 'SPIES' ON ANIMAL LIBERATIONISTS

A former lecturer at Exeter University Maj. Gen. Richard Clutterbuck used his position and research for a book on conflicts within the animal rights movement to help draw up a profile of the security risks presented by those groups.

Richard Clutterbuck

He interviewed members of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the National Anti-Vivisection Society and the Animal Liberation Front.

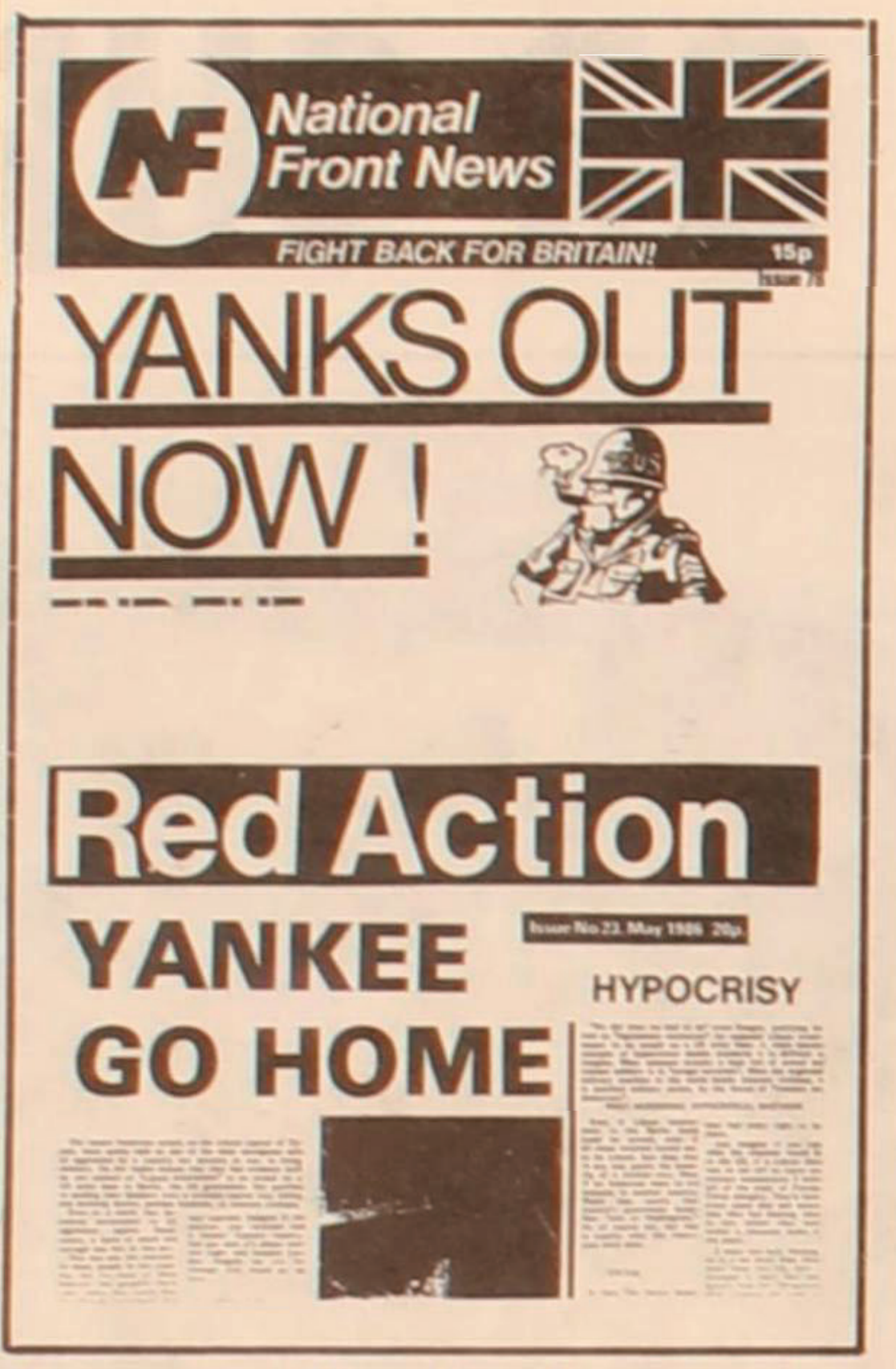
A secret report to security consultants, *Control Risks*, which includes Clutterbuck's suggestions, has subsequently been sold to pharmaceutical companies.

Animal Liberation activists say the security expert did not inform them that his research would end up in such a report.

Clearly Clutterbuck is a statist as well as a career militarist where animals are used to test chemical and biological weapons, so while someRSPCA and anti-vivisection scene types may well entertain such parasites it seems outrageous that ALF members,whom we are usually led to believe are at least 'libertarian' should be so naive. Still we all make mistakes and from this bizzarre episode it should be learnt to do a check on interviewers where possible.

The 'New' NF - More Fascist Than Ever!

Fascism is and always has been based on fear and hatred and so are its organisations. Over the last three years Britain's main fascist party, the National Front, has seemingly changed its position on a number of issues under the new leadership of mini-fuhrers like Nick Griffin, Joe Pearce, Pat Harrington and Derek Holland. It's important to understand, however, that allthe so-called changes *are totally artificial*. The 'New' NF is more fascist than ever.



National Front News (above) and the anti fascist paper 'Red Action'

Ever since fascism was proved to be a system of brutal mass genocide (thanks to Mussolini, Hitler and Franco) the modern-day fascist has been faced with the problem of promoting fascism to a largely hostile audience. This had lead most fascists to cover-up their origins and spread their filth under an increasingly complex number of disguises. They no longer call themselves fascists, for example but prefer to use the term 'nationalist'.

More recently the British National Front, in line with several other European fascist organisations, has gone one step further and adopted the term 'radical nationalism' to disguise their true fascist identity. Basically, 'radical nationalism' is a populist approach to fascism. It attempts to attract as many people as possible into the fascist camp by incorporating a number of supposedly 'radical' causes into an overall fascist ideology. Populist causes currently in vogue with the NF for example include anti-Americanism, the animal rights and ecology issue. They even claim to be anti-capitalist! Dig a little deeper into the NF's 'radical' facade and you hit reality. On the questions of capital punishment, anti-communism, feminism and South Africa the NF's 'radicalism' leaves a lot to be desired. More important still to the NF's ideology of course is its racism and anti-Semitism - the very corner stones of fascism.

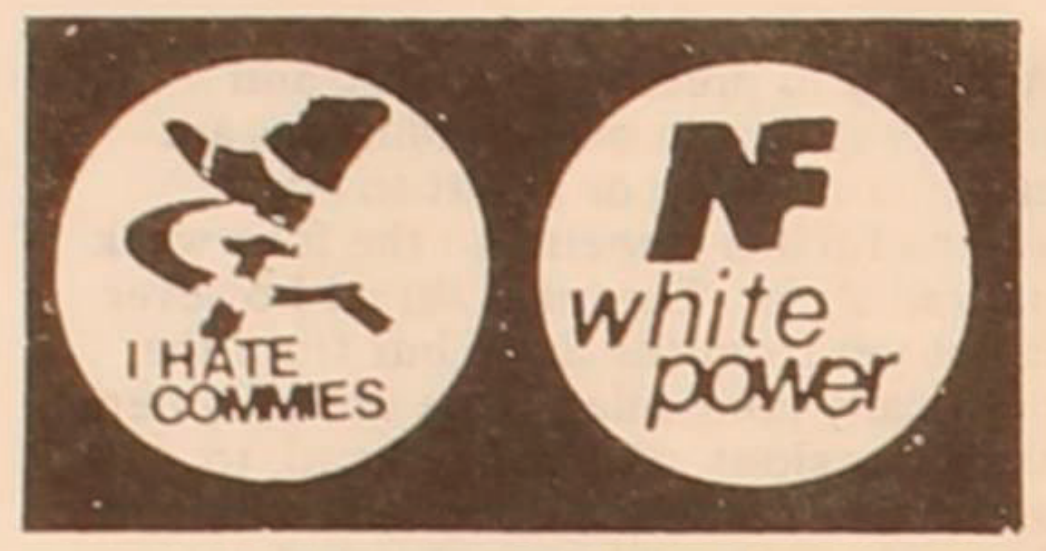
Hard Times

But times are hard for fascists. When Thatcher took over the country in 1979 a lot of NF members simply dropped out, arguing (not unreasonably) that fascism had arrived. From around 17,000 members in 1976 the NF now only has a couple of thousand or less.

Faced with a rapidly diminishing membership, and crippled by a recent split, the NF is now claiming to have transformed itself into a 'revolutionary elite' in order to explain away their flagging fortunes. No longer can any old racist join the party. To afford the 'privelege' (sic) of calling yourself an NF fascist you must complete a probationary period during which time you are expected to take part in at least two political or NF fund-raising activities each week, sell ten copies of the party newspaper each fortnight, pay £10 per month to party funds and attend at least two 'organisational and ideological seminars' each year. If you get through that little lot you must take an exam 'run by the selection and training department' at the end of the year before becoming 'a cadre member' proper.

THE 'ACTION MAN' APPROACH

The new rules outlined above are an extension of an idea the NF has been toying with for a number of months – the so-called 'Political Soldier' approach. 'The Political Soldier', according to the NF, is the model fascist 'inspired by a spiritual and religious ideal that totally dominates his life.' He doesn't smoke, doesn't drink, doesn't watch TV. He doesn't even go to football matches!



More 'traditional' NF propaganda

Instead he spends his time selling 'NF News', reading fascist literature, infiltrating local community groups, body-building and developing a sense of humour. Only time will tell how appealing this 'new' approach will be.

Our approach to fascism, on the other hand, remains the same.

NON-VIOLENT NAZIS?

On Thursday January 8, a Martin Alder, National Front organiser, speaking on the London Broadcasting Corporation Radio said 'we want to attract ANARCHISTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT INTO VIOLENCE TO THE NATIONAL FRONT'.
Comment: FUCK OFF!

Disorderly Public Order Demonstration

On January 1 the Public Order Act became law in Britain. This new legislation is a ban on all marches, rallies and pickets that do not have police approval. Under the Act:

- spontaneous demonstrations will be illegal (7 days notice must be given)
- Organising and taking part in demonstrations without police permission will be criminal offences.
- The size, route, time, duration and slogans of a demonstation will be subject to police 'approval'.
- organisers will have to give veritable names and addresses (allowing police to refine and extend their dossiers)
- The price for breaking these laws is high: 1,000 pound fines plus policing costs, or three months in prison, for an organiser, and 400 pounds for a participant, in an 'illegal' demonstration.

An 'illegal' march was organised for the first Saturday after the Act came law – January 3rd this year. Over 1,000 people marched from the Clock Tower in Islington. There was some confusion at the start, either unintentional or deliberate. Leaflets which said that the start of the march would be Highbury Field were given out, unknown to the organisers. The route passed Pentonville prison (chants of 'Let them out') police stations and the *Sunday Times* offices (chants of 'burn it down, burn it down') to the central London Law courts. Other popular songs and chants included 'we will fight, we will react, smash the Public Order Act; the Streets Are Ours, and that's a fact, Smash...etc. On the whole, there was a lack of anarchist chants, or banners, and many sections of the demonstration marched in silence.

The law courts in the Stand were the end of the route 'agreed' to by the police at the beginning of the march (it appears they were only applying parts of the Act). However the police were blocking the front of the law courts and began directing traffic through the rally. People spoke through a megaphone, to the milling crowd. Revolutionary Communist Party members, being skilled at manipulation and ranting, called for the march to move to South Africa House, while anarchists and others thought that Wapping, the most blanant example of police brutality and crowd control, would be a better distination.

After confusion the march moved on to the 24-hour picket of the South African embassy in Trafalgar Square. From there a large group ran down Whitehall toward 10 Downing Street and Parliament House. Demonstrations within a mile of Parliament have been banned since the days of the Chartist movement in the 1840s.

So the police got in a frenzy and tried to halt the march. They were ignored and run around. Only by keeping on the move could the march avoid arrest, as numbers were small.

At the Parliament House end of Whitehall, confusion reigned, and 20 people were arrested in the ensuing skirmishes with police, who were apparently undecided about whether to arrest all or some of the march.

While a range of 'oppositional' and 'revolutionary' groups, parties and movements have been involved in CAPR actions, the organised labour movement was largely absent. This is despite the fact that this law strikes at hard fought for gains of the labour movement: the 'rights' to assemble, march and picket.

CAPR have decided to call on all groups who have nominally supported the campaign and others, to discuss the future of the campaign at a meeting/conference at 7.30pm on 21 January at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1

More information: CAPR, 83 Blackstock Road, LONDON N4.

ANARCHO-QUIZ

1. Hunt saboteurs are described by foxhunters as 'commies', 'anarchists' and 'Marxists'. Many hunt saboteurs are Anarchists, employing anarchist tactics – but is hunt sabotage consistent with Marxism?
2. The ashes of Rudyard Kipling, regarded as the poet of Empire and most esteemed for his glorification of the British Raj in India in stories and poems, were laid to rest to the singing of the 'Red Flag'. Why?
3. What were the almost anarchistic origins of the Mafia and the Camorra?
4. Which German film producers is generally regarded as a glorifier of the Nazi regime, but did have the courage to protest to Hitler personally about atrocities in Poland?
5. Why was one British king this century murdered by one member of the Conservative Party (and his son driven into exile by another)?

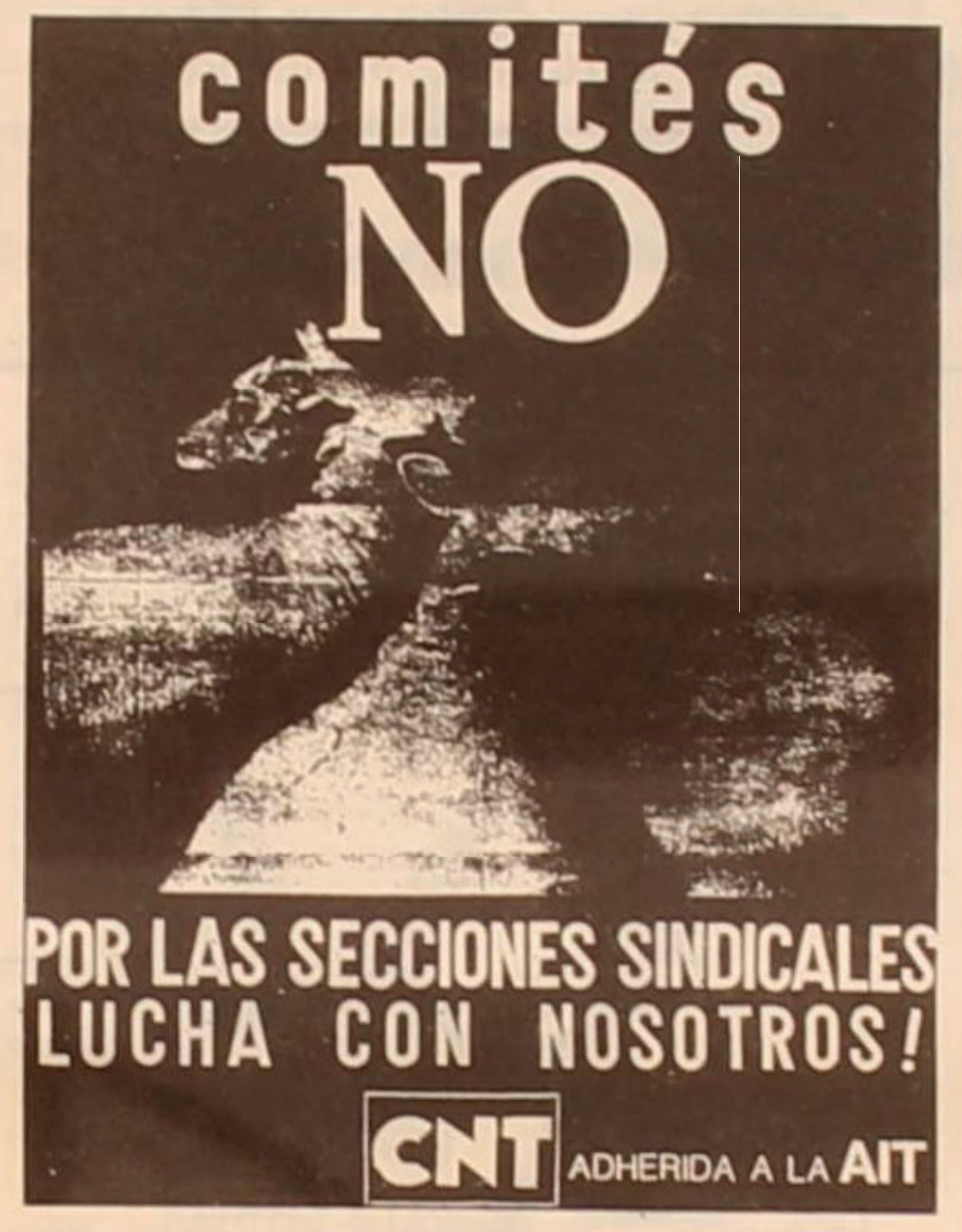
Answers on page

INTERNATIONAL

NEWS IN BRIEF

CNT FIREBOMBED!

The CNT-AIT has run an extensive boycott campaign over the period of the recent *Sindical Elections* (in which workers are supposed to vote 'representatives' from state-approved unions onto a committee which then 'mediates' between them and management). Abstention in the last elections was 56% and the big unions like the CCOO (communists) have used just about every dirty trick in the book to get workers to participate this time round. Methods have included physical intimidation, and threats, particularly in factories where abstention went up to 90% the last time. The communist and other stateaproved unions were particularly worried by the CNT-AIT campaign, discovered that all the propaganda for it was being printed in Sabadell, Catalonia, and went and firebombed the premises of the CNT-AIT Local Federation there, on the morning of November 17 1986. It is believed that most of the people involved in the attack were members of the CNT 'split', (who of course are participating in the Sindical Elections), and whose local secretary Ignacio Martinez, was found hiding inside the building when the firemen came. Until now the confrontations between the majority CNT and the 'split' have been open, known to everyone. The use of fascist style commando tactics — as in the attack on Sabadell — marks a change of tactic for the CNT 'split' — something to do with the fact that people like *Estela* (veteran fascist from Franco's vertical syndicates) are now turning up in its ranks, perhaps?



CNT-AIT anti election propaganda.

HUNGER STRIKE

Conscientious objector *Cesc Alexandri* — Spain's first 'prisoner of conscience' since Franco's time — went on a four week hunger strike in late October 1986; he is still 'confined to barracks' — his crime is refusing to do military service. Anarchists and sympathisers working with the magazine *Lletrea* have organised several large demontrations in Barcelona to protest at Alexandri's continued imprisonment. His address is: Caserna del Bruc/calabos regional' Avda de l'Exercit I/Barcelona 08034/Spain.

A new revised edition of Abel Paz' book on *Durruti* has just appeared. Based on *Durriti — The People Armed*, published in 1972, it includes more recently available eyewitness material, and corrections of previous errors.

MT Barcelona

Olympic City 1992
Whether You Want It Or Not

On 13 October Barcelona's socialist mayor Pascual (bottle of brandy a day) Maragall, flew back from the Olympic Committee meeting in Lausanne pissed as a newt and announced in a faltering voice to his city that in 1992 Barcelona would be the seat of the forthcoming Olympic Games. There were spontaneous piss-ups on the street, hootings of horns, bangings of fireworks, and not-so-spontaneous open air video discos set up in Montjuich. The sounds of celebration went on well into the early hours, and it looked as if Maragall's campaign to enthuse the citizens about the Olympics had worked and worked well. The news, of course was reported around the world, in terms which suggested that the whole city was girding up its collective loins for the Olympic Challenge. The impression was given of unity, festivity, popular approval, 'voting with the champagne bottle' as one local journalist put it. As you've probably guessed, it wasn't *quite* as perfectly unanimous as all that. . .

There were two serious and sustained campaigns against the Olympic Games being held in Barcelona. One was organised by the Catalan nationalists (in their extreme form) who didn't want the games on the grounds that the Spanish government would manipulate them, turn them into a 'Spanish event' and thus - in their words - kick Catalan culture and the Catalan presence into the corner. This campaign remained marginal, based around intensive leafletting, and got little popular support, and even less when it was accompanied by a bomb attack in the Placa d'Espanya (one cop dead but also several human beings severely wounded) by ETA working in cooperation with *Terra Lliure*. The most active members of the campaign were the famous 'teeny-separatists' — young nationalists from rural Catalonia, hardly representative of the urban population of the capital. The campaign was doomed to failure from the start, largely because all the populist mainstream nationalists had backed the Olympic campaign to the hilt. Now, after the result, (e. g. after Barcelona being declared Olympic City) this campaign has vanished.

PROLE AND ANARCHIST OPPOSITION

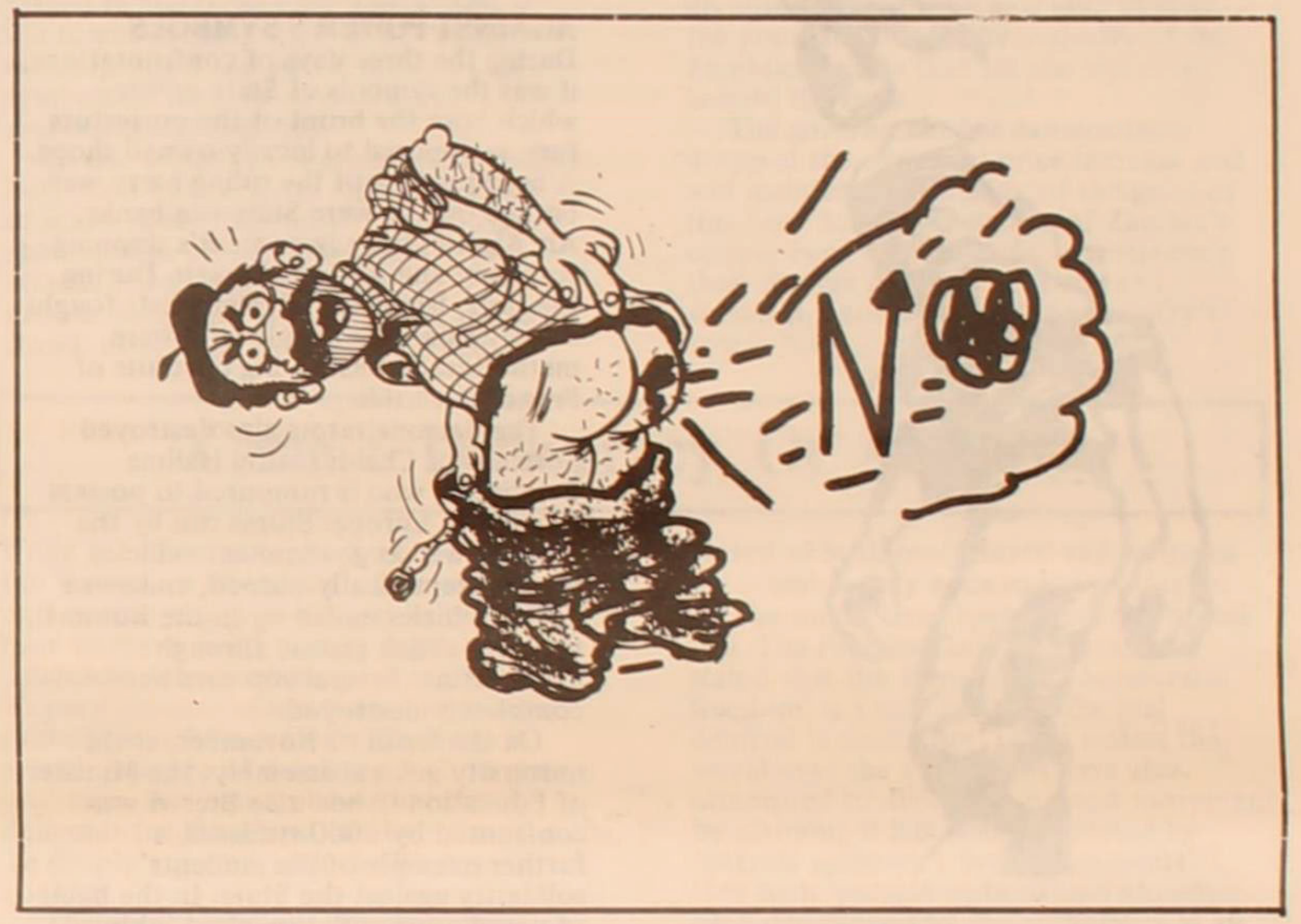
However, there was another campaign, more down-to-earth, more popular in nature, which came out of the industrial suburbs of Barcelona and was spread with the active support of local anarchist and libertarian groups and neighbourhood associations; it was visible through local fanzines and neighbourhood papers, through a massive graffitti campaign, and through a final march through Barcelona of two thousand anti-Olympic protesters.

The basis of this campaign could be summed up in the sentence: if Barcelona can afford Olympic Installations it can afford other, and more worthwhile services too, such as running water, still not available in some areas of the periphery, or proper health and education, hardly available at all in areas like the gypsy neighbourhood La Mina.

In short, this campaign pointed to the massive misspending of resources and money that the Olympic Games represented, in a city suffering from staggering unemployment, whole mafias of beggars, and whole areas running on minimum services. The campaign, from the start, had two problems, one was that Maragall was *using* the unemployment problem as fuel for his pro-Olympic arguments, claiming that the building of the Olympic installations would provide work (without specifying how much).

Second, the Barcelona Town Council had the whole of its extremely sophisticated propaganda network working flat out to promote the Olympics, with massive billboards, the recruiting of thousands of volunteers who kept getting their photos printed in the papers, radio and TV campaigns, all carefully preplanned, well-designed, and backed by tempting financial morsels in the shape of renovation grants for people's homes (their facades only of course).

The libertarians and neighbourhood groups couldn't — at first — hope to compete with all the above, and their campaign was too simplistic to begin with, they just spread the word NO without explaining the issues to people properly, and get misinterpreted or confused with the nationalists. (This was pointed out in a recent issue of the anarchist magazine *La Cabra*. The only *detailed, informed* criticism of the Olympics until recently was the veteran writer *Correal* in the CNT paper *Solidaridad Obrera*.



Now, however, the campaign is picking up momentum, despite the fact that Barcelona has already been chosen as Olympic City 1992, and as the facts of the matter are gradully coming to light, so more and more people are beginning to question their original pro-Olympic enthusiasm. They are beginning to see the irony of the whole set-up, best summed up by a cover of La Cabra showing one of the cardboard-collectors (the poorest workers in the city) towing his mass of cardboard and string behind him and proudly shouting the famous Town Hall Council slogan 'At last we're Olympic!'

WHO PAYS, WHO PROFITS?

Practical objections to the Olympics include the fact that the Barcelonans will be footing a *ten year* bill for the costs of the new installations, the contracts for which have mainly gone to American and Japanese companies. Six hundred people will be forcibly 're-housed' to make space for some of these installations (people from the working-class district of *Poblenou*). It's been found that the ex-mayor of Barcelona and current Minister of Defence, Narcis Serra, is director of the *Plan de la Ribera* company which tried to start a massive property building/speculation programme in *Poblenou* in the late seventies — the plans were stopped by the local neighbourhood associations; now, however the same plans are going ahead under the Olympic Village project, with Serra's own company taking a large cut — Serra, of course, was one of the main promoters of the Barcelona Campaign. More solid resistance, with active anarchist participation, working in tandem with neighbourhood organisations, is taking place in the northern suburb of *Nou Barris*. This industrial district is one of the most poorly serviced in the city. For years the neighbours have been demanding the constructions of an open space/central square in their area, more schools, and for the modification of the *Segunda Cinturon* motorway project, which threatens to destroy the entire district, cutting right through a heavily built up area. The money, for the modifications to the motorway, and for education has now been 'redesignated' to the Olympic Programme, in the form of a track stadium which will be used for exactly ten days, six years from now, the cost for which is over a thousand million pesetas. The neighbours, however, had one small triumph: they got their central square completed (23 December 1986) — they insisted it was named after the famous anarchist and CNT activist Angel Pestana. . .

The CNT — who have good memories, some of them — have pointed out that the Olympics will be exactly like the Barcelona World Fair of 1929, where none of the expensive installations built for the purpose were useable afterwards, and the cost of which crippled the city until 1936. They and other anarchists have also pointed out that the Olympics will offer the police a wonderful opportunity to increase their powers under the guise of 'cleaning-up' the city. Plans are ahead to make the red light district a smart residential district, and to evict most of the current tenants. Powers of stop and search, and of enter and search, are going to be abused, to judge by the way things have been going recently with the shutting down of the Anarcho-punk *Cafe Volten* and the constant harassment of its ex-customers. In general, the Olympics will be one more step in the 'Europeanisation' of Spain, with all that implies in terms of state control, propaganda boosts for 'parliamentaery democracy' and tame unions, and rising prices. The emphasis now is on 'not letting the side down', on showing the Europeans that we're as orderly and efficient as them. The only way this sort of nonsense can be stoped is with local resistance in the affected areas of the city and a general getting across to Barcerlonans of the corrupt *facts* behind the Olympic dream so many of them have fallen for. Only the neighbourhood organisations and the anarchists (who have a definite social base in many areas) are currently interested in doing this. Six years to go. . .

MATT BARCELONA 1986 December

Greek Police Uncover Anti-State Arms Cache

Dear Comrades,
On 9 December 1986 the minister for public order, Antonis Drosoyannis, announced that police had located the hideout of the 'Antistate Struggle Armed Organisation', the organisation to which Christos Tsoutsouvis belonged.

Police claim they found six revolvers, hunting rifles, ammunition, two anti-tank mines and hand-grenades, as well as 'lists of persons to be executed', and other printed material. Police also claim that one of the revolvers had been used to execute public prosecutor Theofanopoulos on 1 April 1985 and two others had been used in a supermarket robbery (in 1985) that left two private cops dead.

Finally they 'found' the 'Beretta', which had been used at the gunfight which left Christos Tsoutsouvis and three cops dead on 16 May 1986.

The military's security service has been involved in this case since police believed the rifles had been stolen from army arsenals along with the mines and handgrenades.

Rumours of people arrested have not so far been verified.

– Christos Tsoutsouvis' sister, Nota, sued her boss and two more people at her place of work for having ill-treated her. She claims that the police were responsible for this situation.

– A 22-year-old man, Sotoris Deliyamis, was arrested on 22 November at Athens airport. Police announced that he had on him one of the revolvers 'stolen' from the cops during the 17 November Anarchist march through Athens (see Black Flag No. 165*). Sotoris is now being held in custody and faces charges of malicious wounding, robbery and so on. Five people who were arrested along with him have now been set free but face some minor charges.*

OTHER NEWS

Kyriakatiki Eleftherotypia (a Greek paper) reported on 7 December that 'six British cowbosy are training some forty Greek policemen' at the Avlona military training camp.

Well, that's it for the moment. I'll send you more news and perhaps photographs in my next letter.

Love and Anarchy!
B.K. (Athens).

INTERNATIONAL

Repression Provokes Riot In Algeria

As Islamic fundamentalism sweeps across the Arab world, finding fertile soil in peoples' misery, the events which occurred at the beginning of November in the eastern part of Algeria are proof that Islam and the State continue to be resisted despite President Chaldi's government's manoeuvres to attempt to reduce what has taken place in Constantine and Setif to an episodic outburst of vandalism.

On the contrary, it is a question of a radical opposition to a method of development based on the triad oil/State/Islam, and recent political-economic restructuring (an opening up to capitalism and a thaw in relations with Washington), which has been unable to resolve fundamental problems.

FIERCE REPRESSION

The reaction to government policies began in Constantine on the fifth and sixth of November, when leaflets were posted and students took to the streets to protest the use of political classifications and Islamic education as requirements for receiving a degree. From the outset, the students' demos met with harsh police repression and the next two days witnessed an extension of the movement.

Instead of discussing specific problems (poor transportation, the quality of food at the university, etc.) as the students demanded, the government immediately sent in the riot police, who made their presence felt in an extremely brutal manner at the University of Zouaghi, breaking limbs with clubs and harassing women. This did not prevent youths from the poor neighbourhoods from going into action. Thousands of exasperated protesters converged and controlling the streets for three days, confronting the riot police with stones and throwing back cannisters of tear gas.

The students' demands were quickly drowned in a generalised protest against the apparatus of repression, the scarcity of goods and privileges for the few, representing a rejection of the military State, which, once independence had been obtained, wasted no time in installing Boumedienne and monopolising the levers of power. The State, as expected, quickly attempted to reduce the conflict to a question of a fundamentalist coup manipulated by 'the enemies of Algeria'.

But it is evident that Islamic fundamentalists, communists and leftists were unable to structure and recuperate the protests, and a parallel can be drawn with the hunger riots in Morocco and Tunesia. There, too, the repression was ferocious and this time, in Constantine the toll was four people killed and 190 arrested.

AGAINST POWER'S SYMBOLS

During the three days of confrontations, it was the symbols of State power which bore the brunt of the protestors fury as opposed to locally-owned shops. A headquarters of the ruling party was burned out, as were State-run banks, Air Algeria, the government's shipping company and its press bureau. During the riots, Islamic fundamentalists fought side by side with people who were metholidcally destroying portraits of President Chaldi.

The demonstrators also destroyed portraits of Chaldi's wife, Halima Bendjedid, who is rumoured to possess 'castles' in Europe. Stores run by the State as well as government vehicles were systematically burned, and some of the vehicles ended up in the Rummel, the river which crosses through Constantine. Several cop cars were completely destroyed.

On the tenth of November, at the university general assembly, the Minister of Education Abdeluale Brerwi was confronted by 6000 students, a further example of the students' solidarity against the State. In the habit of negotiating with organised lobbys, Brerwi was thrown into total confusion by a new political generation which spoke about the victims of the police without using formalities or oratorical caution. 'Anyway', a student stated, 'we are all aware that you have yet to be surpassed as far as demagogy goes'. Although the Minister managed to obtain an end to the current hostilities, the university remains on strike and the student demand the release of those in prison and improvements in the standard of living.

The 1985 riots in the Algiers casbah were a previous illustration of growing unrest among the urban poor. Unemployment, which is offically set at 16.9%, has become a major urban plague and 45% of the population are presently looking for a job. In the Middle East, as elsewhere, there is a price to pay for an excess of political errors (fortunately) Hopefully, the Constantine riots against the State and Islam will serve as an inspiration.

Willy Pelletier
Translated from *Le Monde Libertaire* **No. 639.**

ANSWERS TO QUIZ

1 . Hardly, we would have thought – certainly not consistent with Engelsism, since Marx's co-author was a Master of Foxhounds when he wasn't sitting in his Manchester office exploiting the cotton workers and passing off what he stole out of the firm's money to keep Karl going.

2 Saklatvala, Communist Mp for Battersea, was cremated at the same place, but his hearse was delayed by long political orations. The waiting crowd mistook Kipling's procession (with Indian Imperial symbolism) for Saklatvala's (he was cremated with full Hindu religious rites) and burst into the socialist anthem.

3. The Mafia was a Sicilian peasants defence organisation resisting the landlords, but gradually hoodlums took over and exploited both sides – somehwat in the manner of the way they took over some American trade unions two centuries later. The Camorra was originally a Neapolitan union for the defence of (Nationalist and other) political prisoners of Spanish domination, but turned to exploiting prisoners on behalf of Nationalist prisoners: after Spanish rule was ended, degenerating into a sort of criminals' union and finally protection racket.

4. Leni Riefenstahl has been depicted as a Nazi (and even as 'Hitler's girl-friend') because of her social-realist depiction of the Berlin Olympic Games which undoubtedly helped Nazi propaganda; but when filming the Germany victory in Poland and seeing massacres she complained to Hitler, perhaps not realising that this was planned Nazi policy and not an aberration. But at least it was more than people like Louis B. Mayer (who dissociated his studio from Marlene Dietrich's anti-Nazism) were prepared to do, from California).

5. As has been recently revealed, George V's death was 'hastened' (ie he was murdered) by his doctor so that his death could appear in the 'suitable' morning papers rather than the sensational and radical evening ones; and his successor Edward VIII was bullied out of the throne for wanting to marry an American divorcee, both at the instigatior of Prime Minister Baldwin.

A Political Prisoner Speaks Out

Juan Carlos Espinoza spent a year in prison in Chile from October 1985 until September 1986. He was originally arrested in connection with a guerrilla attack on military barracks in 1984 (even though he was living in Argentina at the time!) and was later accused of organising an escape attempt from Valparaiso Penitentiary on 18 October 1986 despite the fact that he was being held 'incommunicado' by the CNI (Chile's secret police) on this day. He was finally released on 25 September 1986 after pressure from various Human Rights organisations. After his released he gave the the following interview to the human rights organisation 'Madres de Plaza de Mayo'. It has been slightly edited.

What can you tell us about political prisoners in Chile today?

The situation is as tense as ever, although things have altered slightly with the formation of the 'Frente de Presos Politicos', a support committee for political prisoners. Their first demand is for the release of all political prisoners. They also demand the separation of political from non-political prisoners as guards sometimes provoke the latter to harass the former. A year ago, for example, Gonzalo Munoz was killed during a brawl between non-politicals.

How many political prisoners are there in Chile.

Around 550, although this figure will have increased after the assassination on Pinochet in September 1986. (See BF 161). One major problem is overcrowding. Cells 2x2½ metres held up to eight people when they are only meant to hold four. Over-crowding is atrocious. . .

How many people have disappeared during Pinochet's regime?

Around 2,500 have disappeared, although around 40,000 have been murdered altogether. In 1984 there were approximately 40,000 arrests made. 400,000 have been through the prison system over the last 13 years. That's 1 in 10 of the population. . .

Israel: The South American Connection

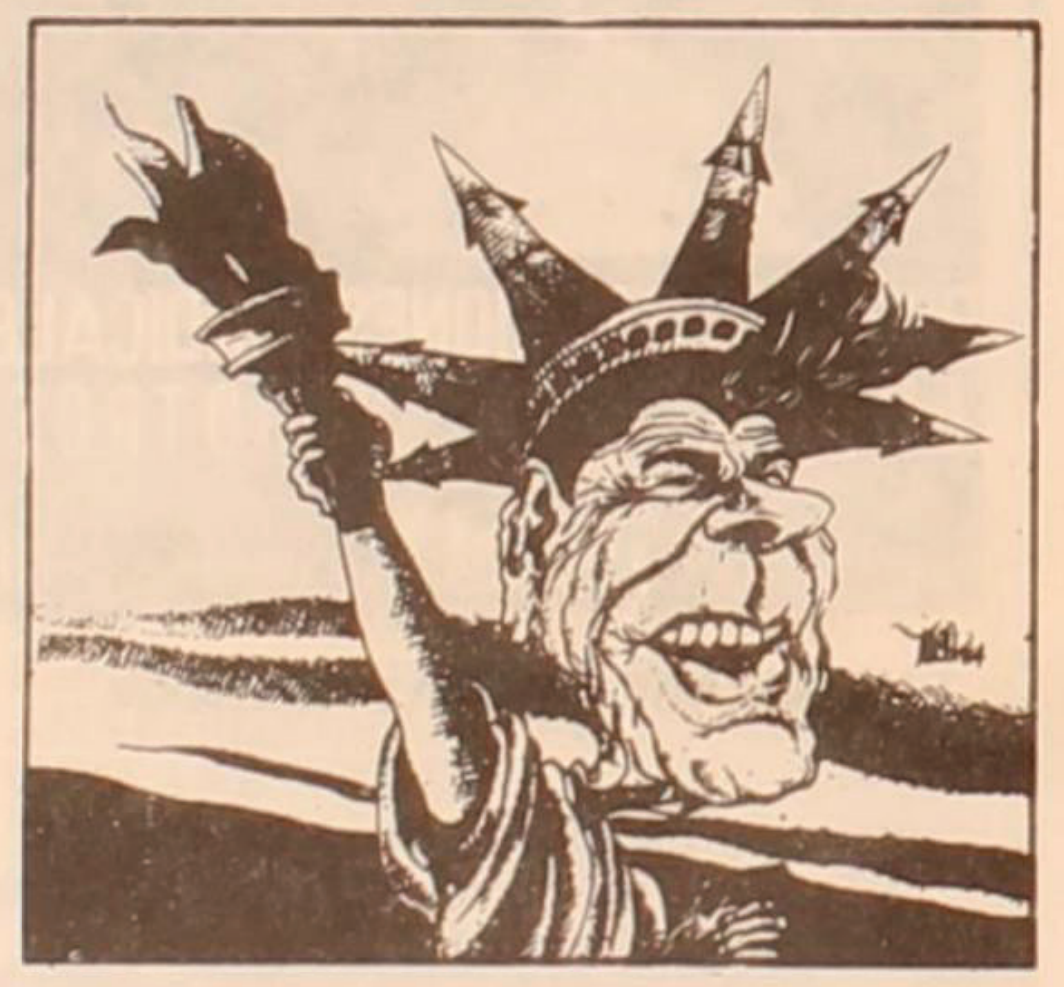
With all the furore in the press about the role of Israel in supplying arms to neo-fascists in central America, it is interesting to note what Noam Chomsky says about some of Israel's previous dealings in that part of the world.

So far from Israel being a regular arms supplier to Guatemala, Honduras and San Salvador, the trade was reversed in the period just after the 1967 war (when Israel was under an arms embargo), and a deal was struck with Bolivia for that country to act as a conduit for Belgian and Swiss arms, ostensibly for Bolivia, to be re-directed to Israel, with handsome profits for the go-betweens.

And who *was* the go-between? None other than Klaus Barbie, head of the arms dealer company concerned. The same company continued its dealings with Israel for some time after with many of the arms emanating from Israel – now the world's third largest supplier of 're-cycled' Soviet arms. These end up in the 'underground' organisations of the fascist international.

Kai Hermann, a West German investigative journalist, claims Israeli agents were working with Barbie during the planning of the 1980 Bolivian coup.

Israeli independence on the USA, economically and militarily, means its intelligence operations are geared towards ensuring mutual support in the respective spheres of influence. As 'realists', 'historical concerns' such as the Holocaust, have little significance for them.



TI

Sentences Reduced For Robert And Tomek

We hope only when we fight, and it's with joy that we inform you of what follows: Robert Chechlacz was granted a reduction of his sentence by ten years and Tomek Lupanow by four years. That, in the murky waters of judicial calculation, should allow Tomek to come out of jail next spring and Robert in about four years. It is still a very long time, when it concerns a prison sentence, and then we continue our financial aid and human support, giving it its whole political dimension if necessary.

Yours,
for the suppression of all jails,
The Friends of Robert and Tomek.
Paris, 19 November 1986.
Les Amis de Robert et Tomek,
B.P. 4, 93301 Aubervilliers Cedex.

France: 'Nothing Will Ever Be Like Before'

This is one of the messages written on the wall of a Paris University after the end of the students' strike. One student is dead, while several others are severely wounded. Our comrade who lost his eye (see previous *Black Flag*) is now out of a coma and his family are confident of him not being paralysed.

The anarchist students met at the beginning of January to talk about what happened in their local area, to work together and plan for the next few months, before the General Meeting of Students in March. The 'brain storming' commissions created during the strike still exist. Their job is to analyse the situation in the universities today, and make propositions for change, to the meeting in March.

A Questionnaire has been distributed by the anarchist students, and the 'Vigilance Committees' which were organised during the strike are ready to respond if the government shoudl try to force changes in the education system.

What did the Student Movement do? It helped people to make contact, and exchange experiences. To talk about racism, unemployment, 'precarious' people. This was not the point at the beginning of the strike, but repression caused them to not only talk about student problems, but also the outside world.

The Commissions formed during the strike still produce a newspaper. The anarchists have been active in all these areas, and the anarchist radio station *Radio Libertaire* has been an important information source.

You can show solidarity to the injured people by writing to: *L.D.H., 'Comite des familles et de Solidarite aux victims des violences policiers', 27 rue Jean Dollent, Paris 750014 France.*

INTERNATIONAL

West Germany

Fun And Games In Berlin

German revolutionaries in action last year.

The following is a report of a demonstration in Berlin received recently, regarding the latest repressions of the French State.

Following a demonstration of 7 December, attended by only two hundred, there was a demonstration on the evening of 8 December attended by 2,000-3,000. The police were there in force (900 according to the *Berliner Zeitung*, the local 'Sun' equivalent), surrounding the meeting-place and checking our pockets before we could get to the demonstration's start. The mood was strong and angry. Some people had seen two water cannons outside the United States. Consulate ('America Hans') and they were expecting trouble there!! As soon as the demo started, crowds of us surged forward towards the front, trying to take up the whole road, but the cops soon stopped that, with loads of them on either side of us, in riot gear. A few firecrackers went off to cheers from everyone.

I've never been on a demonstration where slogans were shouted so loudly, with feeling and real anger, by so many people together: *'Long Live International Solidarity! Chirac is a Murderer and a Fascist! Fire and Flames for this State! Riot, Resistance! For Profit/State and Capital, Police Murder is International!'*

We soon reached the main street, 'the Ku'damm.' Electric atmosphere. Many demonstrators were masked up from the beginning, with good reason: the police were photographing a lot. As we approached the rally-site, some groups rushed forward, as something seemed about to happen. The cops apparently provoked a small confrontation to photograph demonstrators retaliating. Most of us linked arms to stop the plain-clothes 'Zivis' from infiltrating the crowd.

By now we were marching on both sides of the Ku'damm while cops protected shop-windows, (a line on both pavements). Christmas shoppers mostly looking on bewildered. At the rally, a junction, cops with vans handy were blocking all four exits, especially those leading to the 'Steigenberger Hotel', where the French foreign minister was about to be entertained by Berlin's rich and powerful.

The speeches were revolutionary for once, the student speakers pointed out that we would face the same repression here if we ever pressed our demands with similar determination to that shown by the French students. This was painfully obvious from the number of uniforms surrounding us! The war in Nicaragua was mentioned to chants of *'USA out of Nicaragua!'* And as the rally ended, we chanted, *'Away With the Shit System!'*

Some groups broke off to try and carry on the demonstration in a more appropriate manner. I saw one group charging off followed by some SEK ('Sondereinstaz Kommando' the special operations unit, equivalent to the SPG), wearing training shoes for speed. But it looked like a trap, there were probably loads more cops waiting in the area. It was probably about then that the windows of Air France and Pan Am were smashed and several arrests made.

Hamburg Resists Eviction

On Saturday 20 December 1986 more than 10,000 people clashed with riot police in Hamburg during a demonstration against the eviction of some flats of the occupied 'Hafenstrasse' area near the harbour, which are due for eviction from 1 January.

In the past, the Hafenstrasse people have engaged in revolutionary fights in the north of Germany, like Solidarity actions for Gunther Sare, anti-nuclear campaigns, social revolutionary unemplyed committees etc. That's why the social democratic regional government in Hamburg, together with the conservative opposition are to destroy the structures which have developed during the last year. The chief of the secret police in Hamburg said, 'recognise, arrest and if necessary kill'.

Within the 20 December demonstration there was a so-called 'revolutionary block' built up from anarchists, autonomists and anti-imperialists, who the riot police attacked in order to split them away from the demonstration. Police began beating up people with their truncheons, the demonstrators fought back, some took away the cops' truncheons and began attacked them. Afterwards the police began to shoot with teargas, people replied by throwing bricks until the riot police pissed off.

Beginning on Saturday night until Sunday in the afternoon there were 15 arson attacks on warehouses in Hamburg. In the beginning of 1987 there will be new attempts, when the politicians begin their next fight to destroy the autonomist structures in the harbour area.

You're Never Too Young...

Late last year, South African police confirmed that they had 256 children between the ages of 11 and 15 imprisoned. Parents groups and the Blach Sash organisation suggested that this number is much higher (estimates of 500 to 800). While some were released at the end of December the majority remained in prison through the Christian 'festive' season – and are still there.

15 Dead In Zambian Riots

Fifteen people died in food riots in the copper belt in Zambia. The riots began after a 120% rise in the price of corn meal - the staple diet of most of Zambia's people. The rise, due to the removal of a US$60m government subsidy. A move forced by the International Monetary Fund if Zambia was to get a $280m loan the government wanted. The price leapt from $2.80 to $8.20 per 110 lb bag.

This increase came after last years bumper maize crop – which was so large there were not enough trucks to move it or silos to store it in. Resentment also runs deep against the government when money from copper – Zambia's only, and dwindling, export earner – goes to building new State banks, a new Party quarters (in this one party state) and a new office block for the national copper mining company – featuring imported marble.

These resentments are clearly displayed in the targets for destruction in the towns in the copper belt – expensive shops, cars and petrol pumps – all symbols of the new elite – were systematically smashed.

In one incident – a government owned hotel that had recently raised the price of maise beer – the only 'luxury' available to most of the population – was attacked and destroyed, while a private hotel that had not raised prices stood, next to it, untouched. When rioting spread to the capital, Lusaka, MP's were warned not to go out on the streets.

The Zambian secretary of State for Defence and Security, Mr Shapi ignoring the class nature of the riots, blamed the South African government, claiming the riots were a 'well calculated attack by Zambia's enemies who are all out to sabotage the country politically and economically'.

Zambia has subsequently arrested three westerners (a Briton, an Australian and a New Zealander) on charges of planning to plant bombs. Mr Shapi claimed there was 'an amount of espionage in the rioting and looters'.

Two of those arrested have now been released, and while the South African government is undoubtedly involved in destabilising 'front-line states', however such events can all too easily be used by diverting attention from the chronic economic problems and the growing divisions between the new elite (5% of the population) and the majority of the Zambian people that are the real story behind the riots.

The government has subsequently dropped the cornmeal price increase and will maintain the subsidy of the price of this basic food. The people of Zambia's copper bent are successful in protecting their meagre standard of living and shown the hollowness of the country's motto 'One Zambia, One Nation'.

China : Democracy Or Anarchy

While the Chinese media have rubbished the 'bourgeois liberalism' of those taking part in the demonstrations over the last four weeks as being merely a guise for 'anarchism' (in an attempt – as the Western press so often does – to in turn rubbish anarchism), and while there is ample evidence of pro-Deng faction manipulation, it is equally true that the demands for 'freedom' can by no means be simply equated with the Western concept.

The demonstrations, involving upwards of 70,000 people at any one time, have raged throughout the country, notably at the cities of Nanking, Shangai, Hefei, Peking, Kunming, Canton, Shenzhan and Xian. The more recent demonstrations at Peking prompted the authorities to impose restrictions on marches and demonstrations, making it illegal for any to take place without prior police involvement or approval – as is now in Britain.

The demands of those taking part in the demonstrations are by no means uniform. They range from specific demands for greater student and local democracy and the introduction of elections, for better participation in the local bureaucracies, for better living conditions for students, for a more accountable press, for total support for Deng's slow and limited move to capitalism; to the more general demand for 'freedom'. By Western standards these demands are reformist to say the least. It is also true that in the context of China the demand for 'freedom' and 'democracy' can be interpreted as both reactionary and progressive – which only adds to the confusion

The media have been quick to exploit this. The *Peoples Daily*, for example, stated that the demand for 'democratic freedom' is a ruse and that the real demand is anarchism. Using tactics the world over the authorities have also attempted to divide the protest movement by claiming it has been infiltrated by 'outside agitators', 'lawless elements'. One such 'outside agitator' has already been denounced by the authorities as an 'anarchist and a criminal'.

In the early days of the demonstrations, particularly in the cities of Nanking and Shanghai, there was sporadic rioting. The more recent Peking centred demonstations have been more restrained and pro-Deng - although now an embarrassment to the Deng faction. Indications are, therefore, that the protest movement is by no means united; nor are the demands of the students on the same lines as the non-student demonstrators, who were more prominent in the initial demonstrations. Likewise the demand for 'freedom', even 'democracy', can mean both less government and more; it can also mean, as the *Peoples Daily* said, anarchism – even if that paper did use the word perjoratively. The anarchist movement in China was forced underground from years of oppression: has its activists finally surfaced and are they taking part in the current protest movement in one form or another. This remains to be seen.

T.I.

ELIZABETH MEERMAN

In 1985, Elizabeth (Betsie) Meerman, was arrested for taking part in a demonstration in solidarity with political prisoners from the Red Army Faction, who were on hunger strike. The demonstration went through Hamburg's financial centre and demonstrators smashed the windows of international banks. Betsie was caught by two civilians, who carried out a civil arrest!! The police were called and she was taken into custody for possessing leaflets and agitating for a terrorist group.

Betsie was sentenced to sixteen months in jail. She has spend three months in solitary confinement, with only one hour a day for exercise. The only way she could have avoided this was to join the therapy group, which was a chance to meet with other women, but would not have helped her since the therapy is designed to make 'proper women' of them, able to re-enter society, with talk of potential husbands, homes and babies. Another alternative was to join the christian group, where the prist is a right winger, and so unbearable. The last alternative was to join the production line of the jail, which she refused on the grounds that she wouldn't co-operate in sustaining a repressive regime.

Despite going on hunger strike in an attempt to be placed with other political prisoners, Betsie has to spend most of her time in solitary confinement, with only one visit per month. All her mail is opened, no books and magazines are allowed, except when they are sent straight from the publishers. Feminist literature is not allowed as they believe it hinders efforts to reform Betsie and that it would simply strengthen her unfitting views on the state and society.

Betsie would like to receive letters and support and better-still ones insulting the guards.

Write to: Elizabeth Meerman, c/o
3 Strafsenat, OLG, 2000 Hamburg, 36
W. Germany.

ANARCHIST BLACK CROSS

5 YEARS ON DEATH ROW

Jim Trimble is a 22-year-old anarchist punk who was framed for a murder he did not commit. He is condemned to die by gassing in the Maryland gas chamber despite the fact that he was only 17 when arrested, and despite the fact that he was found by the court to be "mentally retarded".

Jim Trimble's execution will be in violation of international law which states that the sentence of death shall not be imposed for crimes committed by persons below the age of 18 years, or persons who are determined "insane". There is reason to believe that Jim has been made the scapegoat for a crime he did not commit and that he did not receive a fair trial, as the following evidence will show.

Jim and four other men were arrested and charged with murder, rape and kidnapping in 1981. The four other men had wealthy families and could afford expensive legal representation. Two were businessmen and the other two worked for them. They had been using the drug PCP (or Angel Dust) the night of the crime and all four pleaded ***guilty*** as charged. Jim Trimble pleaded not guilty to the charges, and his widowed and pension-supported mother could not afford legal fees; thus Jim was inadequately represented by a State-appointed lawyer.

The other four men received the mandatory sentence of life imprisonment. One of the men had his sentence reduced to 5 years probation and walked away from his trial a free man in exchange for his testimony against Jim Trimble. Two others had their life sentences reduced to 5 years each but both were released on parole after 3 1/2 years. The fourth man is in a rehabilitation centre and will be released shortly. ***Jim Trimble received the sentence of death, plus 3 consecutive life terms, and an additional 70 years!***

Jim Trimble's arresting officers threw him into a cold cell, stripped him naked, interrogated him, threatened him, assaulted him, did not allow him to use the toilet, and denied him any food - until he confessed to a crime he maintains he did not commit. At that time he was living with his 16-year-old girlfriend who was 8 1/2 months pregnant with their son, who Jim still has yet to see.

In his statement to police, Jim said that he had decided to confess to the crimes because he *"didn't want the other guys to get blamed."* He had been told that he could not receive the death penalty as he was a juvenile, whereas the older men accused could be executed if he did not confess.

While awaiting trial, Jim says that the guards treated him with extreme cruelty. He says that during the time when he was locked in solitary confinement, in a cell with no bed, toilet or light, he was forced by guards to sleep in his own excrement. These same guards testified against Jim at his trial.

Throughout the trial Jim was sedated by the drug Thorazine, a major tranquilizer, and could not remember or understand the proceedings very well. The Thorazine was prescribed by doctors. Jim was not permitted to testify at his own trial. His State-appointed lawyer elected that the court not hear Jim's testimony so that he could not be cross-examined.

The only witnesses to the crime were themselves accused of and pleaded guilty to the same charges. They also provided the key testimonies against Jim Trimble in return for reduced sentences. Three of the men testified that Jim Trimble attacked Ms. Rogers (the victim) with a baseball bat, and that, unable to restrain him, they walked away allowing Jim to kill her. It's not only hard to believe that 3 fully-grown men could not restrain one 17-year-old, but their testimony itself falls under suspicion as they would gain reduced sentences by framing Jim.

Jim was found guilty of kidnapping despite the testimony of Ms. Melanie Newson who was a friend of the victim, was said that she and Ms. Rogers had willingly entered a van with one of the other men to, in her words, "party". Jim was found guilty of rape despite the testimony of one of the men that Jim did not have intercourse with anyone, and the admission from the prosecutor that "there is no evidence that the defendant (Jim) himself raped her."

A purse belonging to the victim was found at the residence of two of the men who pleaded guilty to her murder. The baseball bat used to kill the victim belonged to one of the men who pleaded guilty to the murder, and it was later found still in his possesion.

One of the men, presently in a rehabilitation centre, has allegedly confessed to doctors that it was he who killed the woman and not Jim. However, as of this date, Jim's State-appointed lawyer has not been able to gain access to his file at the rehab centre.

To be considered incorrigible enough to be executed, the accused must have been convicted of repeated violent crimes, yet the judge found him to be a "confirmed recidivist" (one who returns to old practices) because he "had a homosexual relationship at the age of 13." Soon after the trial this judge died of old age, and it is evident he was having difficulties during the trial when he persistently referred to Jim as "John Robert" or "J.R.". The judge could not even remember the name of the man he sentenced to death.

Since the trial, Jim has lost four appeals. All his appeals have been submitted ***without Jim knowing*** until he was informed he had lost.

On Death Row, Jim Trimble is isolated from other prisoners and he is locked in his cell 23 hours a day - and he has been there for 5 years. For one hour each day Jim is let out of his cell to work for 85 cents per day from which he must buy soap, shampoo, toothpaste, stamps, etc...

Jim writes: "I've seen people raped here. I've seen people stabbed. I've heard the screams and smelt the flesh of people getting burned to death here. They will throw gas in on someone while they are locked into their cell and then set it on fire and they burn to death because they can't get out. It isn't very nice ... but no one believes inmates.

"Sometimes I just get to the point where I lose all hope. Please don't let me lose hope."

Jim's next appeal comes up on December 18, 1986. We need to help Jim at this very crucial time. Jim faces death in the gas chamber. Is it too much to ask that you try and help him? Jim Trimble is obviously innocent and is being used by the State, similar to the Nazi's use of scapegoats, and surprise, surprise!, they want to put him into a gas chamber. The Anarchist Black Cross is demanding a retrial, and Jim's release. We need your help in the form of letters to Jim Trimble, letters to the Governor of Maryland, and money to aid Jim's defence.

Please write protest letters to The Governor, The State House, Annapolis, MD, 21401, USA.

Please write letters of support to Jim Trimble (#161658), Maryland State Penitentiary B518, 954 Forest St., Baltimore, MD, 21202, USA.

Monetary donations can be sent to the Jim Trimble Defence Fund, c/o the Anarchist Black Cross, P.O.Box 6326, Stn. A, Toronto, M5W 1P7, Canada. (Cash or blank money-orders only please.)

On Hunger Strike

Dear Comrades,

Thanks for the mention in the Flag a couple of weeks back – it's definitely eased much of the isolation I felt at first. I don't know if you've put me on the mailing list but I'd appreciate it if you would? There may be some difficulty, though in me getting it as I've already, to my knowledge, had two left wing papers, an envelope of Vegan Society pamphlets and membership card, and two pages of a friend's letter, all suppressed as 'Unfit for Issue' and 'Politically Inflammatory'.

I've been on hunger-strike since Tuesday 16 Dec demanding: a vegan diet, and cessation of censorship and suppression of incoming (and, for all I know, from prolonged silences, outgoing!) mail.

It's a fucking ridiculous situation! This nick is a stronghold of calvinist-nazism – it's hard to describe without breaking into nervous giggles! Nevertheless, it's heavy-duty stuff!

Eg, I finished seven day's solitary – sensory deprivation – on Mon 15 for LAZINESS!! Refusing exercise, that is. The 'laziness' bullshit is an invention of the governor to 'criminalise' prisoners who exercise their right to refuse exercise. That sums the whole mentality of the place up.

Love anger and solidarity,

R.

P.S. I'll keep you informed as to the progress or lack of it, of the hunger-strike – which is seriously undertaken!!

Also forgot to mention – between 1 December and beginning the hunger-strike I'd been living on little more than porrige, soup and marmalade butties i.e. refusing non-vegan food – this was voluntary til 9 December when the VS card arrived. Between 8 and 16 Dec I lost over 3 kilos – and I don't have that much to spare – I weighed in (fuckin' lights out!) at 72 kilos this morning – I'm 6'1".

18/12 If I'm found guilty at my trial I will be thrown in jail for a long time. If I'm to be expected to survive it in a political and intellectual vacuum, living on porrige soup and marmalade butties, then I've got no choice but to demonstrate stright off that it is totally unacceptable to me by with-drawing my cooperation as far as staying alive goes – I can't do much, as an individual to stop them getting their pound of flesh – but no way are they getting their cold fingers on my pound of warm(ish) brain-cells.

Oh to put it more briefly HELP!?

Messages of solidarity to: R. Menzies (1405), Hall B3-5, HM Prison, Aberdeen. Scotland.

PRISON DEATHS

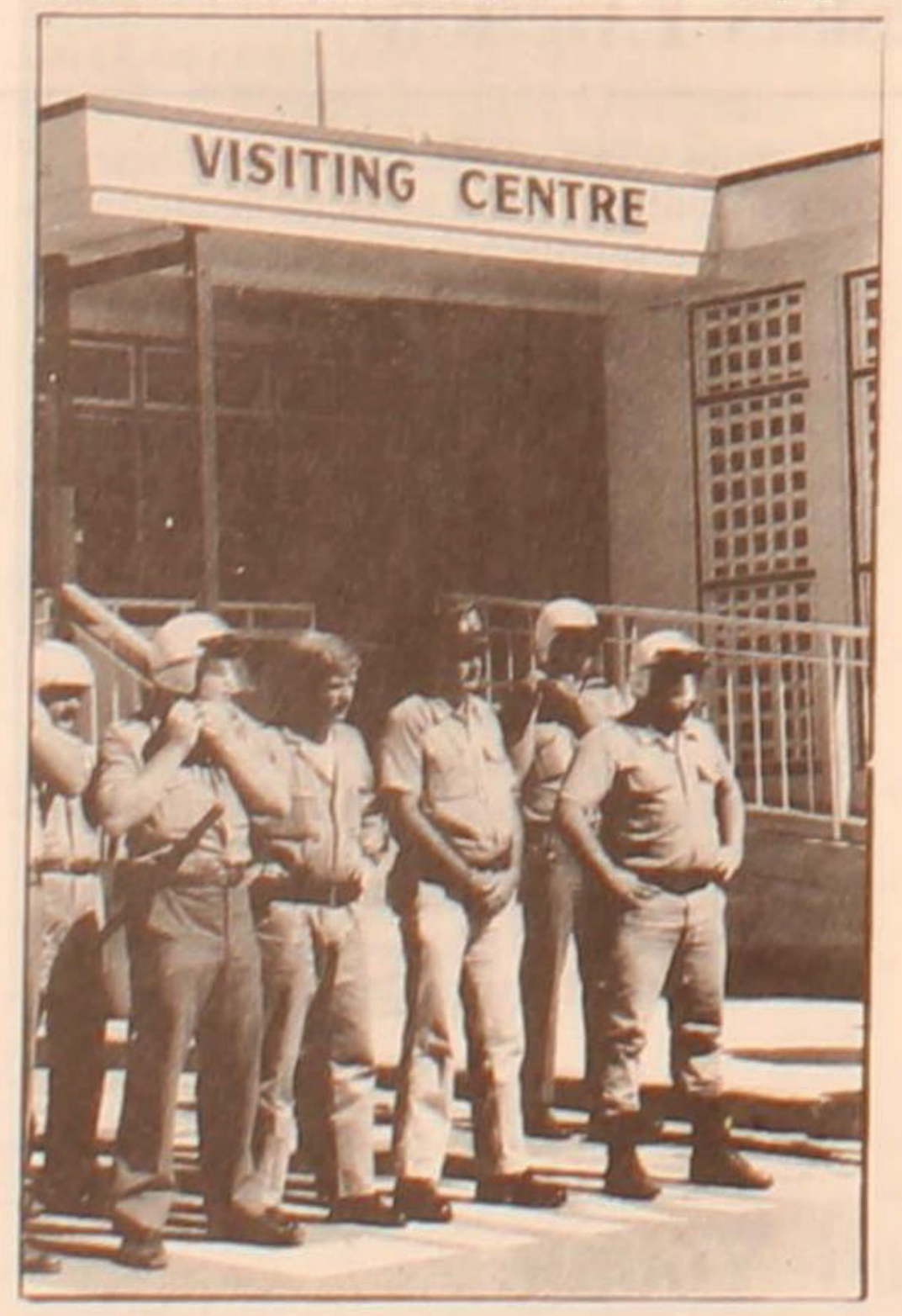
It was revealed in a coroners inquest into a death at Hull prison that the prison did not have any medical personnel on duty between 7pm and 9am. The prisoner died in his cell of a heart attack after 11pm while prison authorities stood around – not empowered to administer anything but asprin or laxatives. It took 40 minutes to get a doctor to the prison by then the man was dead. The coroner has snubbed a 'review' of medical sources at the prison!

In another incident a young unemployed man from Machen was found hanged in a cell at Caerphilly police station. The police, of course, are not treating the death as suspicious.

NEWS IN BRIEF

PRISON RIOT BRINGS OUT LOCAL SUPPORT

After a riot in Brisbane's Boggo Road Prison the reaction of Queensland's ultra-right premier, Joh Bielke-Petersen, was predictable enough: he promised harsher conditions all round as punishment and said what whatever the conditions the prisoners deserved what they got.



Boggo Road Prison guards

But the riots got some support when members of two local prisoners support groups – the Prisoners Programme group and the Prisoners Action Group – picketed the prison while the disturbances were in full swing and continued to provide support in the aftermath in the form of a demonstration and picket outside the prison. The mainstream TV covered the disturbances and prisoner grievances were aired when a member of the Prisoners Programme (a Black Cross Member) gave an interview. More information followed on the Prisoners Programme itself, which has a regular slot on an 'alternative' radio station. The programme broadcasts prisoners letters smuggled out and exposes conditions and reports on attacks on prisoners.

ANARCHIST BLACK CROSS

A comrade sending cash for our Chile appeal, says, 'How about running a similar appeal for the South African unions (since giving to the AAM is ultimately giving to the ANC)?'

We sympathise; but to tell the truth we have no direct contacts with African unions. It must also be said that the amounts we could raise would be insignificant to what is a comparatively well-aided struggle and it's better to concentrate on a few places where what we can send can mean something. But if ever we're in a position to make a move in the South African direction we will do so.

NEWS FROM THE VANCOUVER FOUR

Gerry Hannah, jailed in 1983 for his involvement in guerrilla activities, has been moved to a lower security prison on Vancouver Island.
Letters of solidarity to Gerry Hannah, c/o P.O.Box 4000, Stn. A. Victoria, B.C. V8X 3YB. Canada.

INDUSTRIAL

News From The Front-Line

These are excerpts from Picket No. 40, the weekly picketing print union members bulletin, c/o Housman's Bookship, 5 Caledonian Road, London N1 9DX.

THURSDAY 18 December. Kent: Over 150 sacked printworkers and their supporters demonstrated outside the main gates of the EETPU's headquarters 'Hayes Court' in West Common Road, Hayes, Kent, with the theme '11 months in struggle – but you'll never beat the printworkers with your scabbing.'

The demo was no secret, and the scab officials at Hayes Court were worried enough to send the staff home early in order that they would not hear from us first hand just what we thought of their union bosses. An unknown member of the Hayes Court staff come out to tell us that there was no point in our staying there as all the staff had been sent home early and only 'half a dozen officials were left in the place'. We said that these officials were the very people that we wanted to see, to let them know of our contempt and disgust at the way in which Hammond and Rice had connived with Murdoch to steal our jobs. Where was Hammond. This deceitful hypocritical liar had taken the day off.

By the time the Inspector had called up reinforcements, a Transit pulled up complete with riot gear. The scab officials were lining up their cars and it was obvious that they were preparing to come out in Convoy, Wapping-style. One of the officials was Ira Walters, a local Labour councillors, who despite several invites, refused to come out and talk to us. He turned away and got into his car, ready for the race. Of the 16 in the cars, none would talk to us.

In the convoy was Tom Rice, chief fixer for Hammond and Murdoch. The gates were closed and locked and the demonstrators left, a number deciding to march to Tom Rice's home at 14 Hayes Gardens, Hayes. On arrival, we gave him a few choruses of 'I'd rather be a picket. . .' etc. He didn't appreciate this much and run from his front window to the hall to phone the police, but we left, promising to return.

SCABS: P. Stevens, Editorial Director, ext 5324 or 650 2400. J. Smyth, Deputy Editor, ext 5409 or 0227-264512. Ms. K. Fielder, Insurance, 833 7205 or 07373-44234. L. Gowland, Computers, ext. 5460 or 657 3101. S. Brown, Accountant, ext. 7110 or GIR 278 278 5227 or 0438-88357. A. Brace, Pensions, 583 5042 or 946 4894. S. King, Health and Safety, ext. 5005 or 858 0706. S. Lemon, Purchasing, ext. 5292 or 692 9508. R. Limb, Production ext. 5305/6 or 638 5458. Mrs. S. Bennett, Personnel, ext. 5301 or 846 9830. Ms. E. Bayliss, Production, ext. 5336, or 672 6703. M. Ball, Accountant, 583 7851 or 02774 22186. I. Trafford, Supplements, 250 0947 or 08832-2048. P. Wrack, Deputy Editor, ext. 5410 or 353 2627. K. Donlan, Managing Editor, ext. 5507 or 467 5223. J. East, Circulation, 833 7547 or 474 5620. S. Maclure, Editor, 250 0945 or 693 3286. B. Matthews, Managing Director, ext. 5309 or 481 3143 or 235 4071. P. Roberts, Managing Editor, ext. 5650 or 0865-891275. B. Simpson, Circulation, ext. 4143 or 822 9288 or 02404-4179. Ms. S. Snell, Switchboard ext. 4192 or 488 2192. I. Fallon, Deputy Editor, ext. 5642/5 or 0732-843091.

My New Year At Wapping

Just another Wednesday night at Wapping – except it is December 31st. After countless cold nights on the picket line sacked printworkers, friends and supporters have gathered yet again to show their disgust at the sacking of 5,000 workers by News International and the installing of electricians and journalists to run the new technology.

What a way to spend New Years eve! Yet after almost a year of pickets, marches, police violence and jailings what else could we do but express our solidarity on this night as well.

When I arrive the crowd is quiet – some listening to speeches, mostly drinking and talking among friends. At 11ish, the cops push people off the highway and put barriers across. There is an air of expectancy – will the police attack at midnight? Will they bring trucks out the front gate to provoke us?

Quiet again. I notice there are no Trotskyists shoving papers under our noses – must have the night off!

One of the printworkers says to me, 'what's worse, you know, is that this used to be a holiday for printers – never worked New Years Eve in my life. But now not only are this lot working – but the other papers are as well to compete. There's just another loss of conditions in the industry since all this started!' He is cut off by shouts of 'scab' as a few empty busses leave.

Just before midnight 50 or so of those working in the plant come out onto the ramp – the crowd erupts into shouts of 'scab' again. As the New Year comes 'Auld Lang Syne' mingles with 'We will win, we will win. . .' and 'scab' (for the watchers across the way). People dance and crowd the police barriers – as they stare on. The mood has quickly shifted to anger and defiance. They look worried.

A number of skyrockets are launched and scream from the crowd and drop into the plant near the giant xmas tree. The police ignore them. A fourth rocket goes low over our heads, between two cops on the line and narrowly misses a police inspector. This is obviously an offence on the scale of Guy Fawkes. So the police launch a column of five into the picketers.

This is too much! People converge on them – two beat a hasty retreat – not unharmed. But two others isolated in the crowd try to grab the nearest people. This is a bad joke and they are torn free and the three remaining police are pushed out with lots of foot and knee work (pickets being ever mindful of the gaze of the video cameras). A group of a dozen cops sneaked around the back hold their ground when they see what's happening to the others. Two busloads pour across the highway to hold the line as 'the filth' are finally ejected – smarting over their powerlessness.

We are pleased to have defeated the insult of the cops trying to arrest pickets at New Year. A New Year that will soon see the Wapping struggle enter its second year (January 24). A new year that will hopefully see rank and file action shift from the defensive to the attack against the like of News International.

LATE NEWS

The *Anarchist Encyclopaedia:* Binder now ready (£3); supplements gradually building up. Information from: *BM/Refract, London WC1N3XX*

Self Management
Frank Mintz
Integral Education
Michael Bakunin
Civil War & Civil Peace: Libertarian Aragon 1936-37
Graham Kelsey

Anarchist Encyclopaedia

ANTI-POLICE VIOLENCE CRIMINALISED

The usual attacks on police and police property that occur at every New Year celebrations were on this occasion sensationalised by the media, prompted by police briefings, providing a kind of retrospective attempt to justify the deployment of paramilitary squads, in full riot gear, to quell the revelry.

Most of the incidents reported on in the press took place in provincial centres. The big story concerned the New Year celebrations in Lincoln where police, under retreat after being attacked (35 officers were reportedly injured), called on riot police as reinforcement. The usual looting also occurred. Similar incidents were reported on in Essex, Gloucestershire and Buckinghamshire.

These 'riots', as the media portray them, are no more than harmless fun – ordinary people partaking in a traditional past- time of beat the Bobby. The police, like the sensationalist and populist left press, want to exaggerate things to justify their paramilitarism. In the 'good old days' they'd shoot someone for daring to be worse than poor. That will come again if the extremists of the State or the vanguardists on the left have their way.

T.I.

REFUGEES IN BRITAIN

Refugee organisation, the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants (JCIW) and the Immigrants' Advisory Service (Akias) have attacked the British government for adopting a policy of detaining refugees for long periods in an attempt to discourage others.

Five Tamils, most of whom were eventually given full political asylum have been detained for periods longer than six months. Nine Iranians are still being locked up at the detention centre at Latchmore House in London while the Government continues to deny they have established a 'well-founded fear of persecution'.

Meanwhile communist Viraj Mendis for whom there has been an extensive campaign to resist his deportation to Sri Lanka, has taken refuge in a church in Manchester!

RUBBER BULLET CENSORSHIP

Fourteen minutes of a Channel Four programme were cut because they dealt with the use of plastic bullets in Northern Ireland. The tape from the Northern Ireland Film and Video Association was shown on the Eleventh Hour series featuring videos by young people. The sequence showed a young man explaining his experience of being injured by a plastic bullet and a song giving the names of fourteen people killed by plastic bullets. The Independent Broadcasting Authority apparently banned it believed it incited to crime and disorder. Yet another case of censorship regarding the 'security' forces in Northern Ireland.

TYRANNY BY CONSENT

Commenting on South Africa, a broadcaster stated that the lesson of the Shah of Iran was that however great your security system, ultimately a government depended upon the co-operation of the people governed. Even a tyranny had to learn to compromise with the mood of the people in order to transmit its commands.

This is the secret of all governments and each contains the canker of their own downfall. Commands are issued but if they are not carried out, centralised bodies of government are no more than debating societies. Hitler, surrounded by military defeat, continued to issue desperate commands – 'shoot them all!' regarding POWs; 'Burn Paris!' – but gradually they were not obeyed.

On a humbler level this is now confirmed by John Renton, Secretary of the Scottish Prison Officers Association, who after the holding of prison officers as hostages, because of the atrocious conditions in Barlinnie prison – itself notorious throughout Scotland – called for an 'alternative regime'. He pointed out to the inmates that 'they do not need to prove their point by overpowering prison officers. They will always outnumber them.' All they lack indeed are the arms and other back-up the prison officers have – and the 'means of persuasion' used on the non-prison population can't have much meaning. But says Renton 'A prison can only be run with the consent of its population'. Just like a state. A warning to all tyrants: so far you can go but no further. But with the means of persuasion, they can go a hell of a long way.

PG

EVENTS

VIDEO SHOWING:

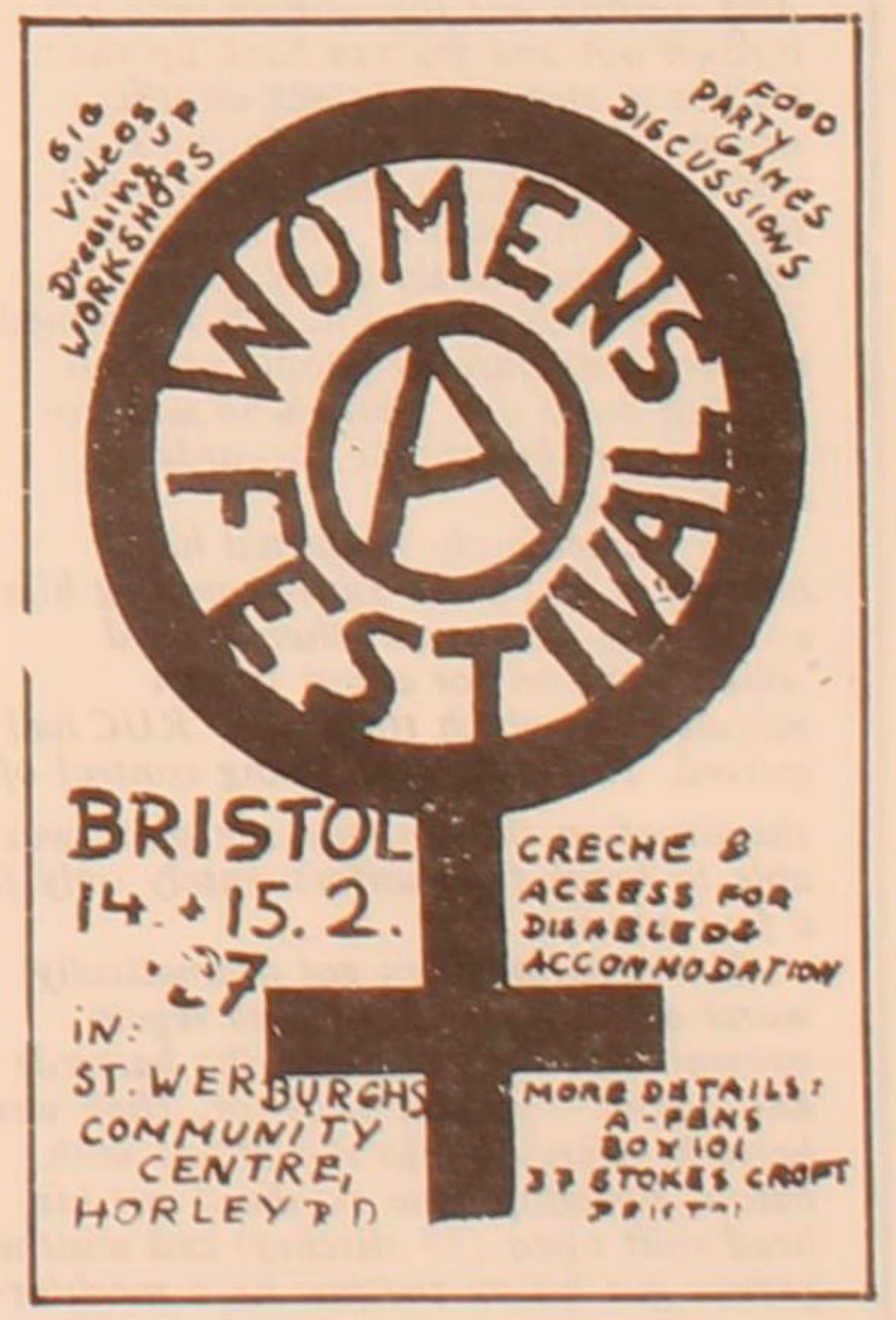
Tuesday 20 January, *Rebellion in Patagonia*, Leslies, 17, Turners Road, Limehouse E3. 7.30pm Tube: Mile End.

BENEFIT FOR THE PRINT-WORKERS

FRIDAY 23rd January. A Printworkers Benefit with CHUMBAWUMBA + Karma Sutra & Bold as Love at QUEEN MARY COLLEGE STUDENTS UNION, 432, Bancroft Road, London E1 plus guest speakers. $2/$1.50 conc.

NORTHERN ANARCHIST BLACK CROSS MEETING

Saturday 7 February at MANCHESTER TOWN HALL 1pm Please Note: LORD STREET ENTRANCE.



BULK SELLING

Anarchist ideas and news of actions are likely to stay limited unless papers like *Black Flag* are sold elsewhere from the usual bookshops. Write in with details of how many copies per issue you need.